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Chair: Mr. Horna (Vice-Chair) ..... (Peru)

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In the absence of Mr. Gafoor (Singapore), Mr. Horna (Peru), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 78: Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission (*continued*) (A/72/121, A/72/126 and A/72/205)

1. **Mr. Arrocha Olabuenaga** (Mexico) said that the subject under discussion could not be treated as just another item on the agenda, in view of its profound legal and political implications. The compilation of information provided by Member States on the grounds on which they established jurisdiction over crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission and contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission of 28 July 2017 (A/72/205) was a tool that could be useful for sharing good practices in the treatment of such persons; Member States that had not yet shared the relevant information were urged to do so. While his delegation was pleased that the report contained data on all allegations and information received from States since 2007, it was concerned that, of the 124 allegations of such crimes reported, information on the measures taken by States to investigate them had been provided in only 24 cases. It was also noteworthy that, according to the information received from States, only 3 of the 27 investigations or prosecutions of crimes alleged to have been committed by such officials or experts since 1 July 2016 had resulted in convictions and sentences. It would be useful in future, in the interests of stronger accountability, for such reports to give detailed information about the measures taken upon such allegations by both the sending State and the receiving State, the duration and outcome of the investigation and any disciplinary measures taken by the United Nations.

2. Mexico also welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on criminal accountability of 29 June 2017 (A/72/121), which contained information on United Nations policies and procedures regarding credible allegations of such crimes and commended the Secretary-General for his new approach to the particularly sensitive matter of measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, outlined in his report on the subject (A/71/818) and as reflected in four main areas of action aimed at putting victims first. It remained a matter of concern that the number of complaints of sexual exploitation and abuse had increased from 2015 to 2016 and that the majority of victims were girls and women. The increase was largely due to measures taken to encourage victims and witnesses to come forward, but it also reflected the persistence of such practices. It was also worrying that in 2016 there had been 103 allegations against the personnel of nine peacekeeping operations and four special political missions, 50 per cent of which related to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Mexico supported the zero-tolerance policy toward such crimes. States listed in the Secretary-General's annual reports on children and armed conflict and on sexual violence should not be allowed to supply troops for such operations so long as they remained on those lists. Likewise, and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2272 (2016), the Secretary-General should repatriate troop or police units in cases where there was credible evidence against them of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation or abuse and should determine whether a Member State had taken appropriate steps to investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of such acts. Mexico had signed the Secretary-General's voluntary compact aimed at eliminating sexual violence and abuse, thereby adding its voice to a strong and welcome public commitment to the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

3. **Mr.** Elsadig Ali Sayed **Ahmed** (Sudan) said that his delegation was deeply concerned about the continuing allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, physical assault and killings by members of peacekeeping missions. The statement in the Secretary-General's report (A/72/121) to the effect that no information on investigations had been received from Member States showed that there were gaps in the reporting, submissions, responses and feedback between the host State, contributing countries and the United Nations, which could lead to impunity.

4. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, including those working in peacekeeping operations, was of great importance. A zero-tolerance policy must be applied, and any crimes committed by them, including sexual exploitation or abuse or fraud, must be punished in accordance with the principles of justice and international law. Member States must not allow the special status enjoyed by United Nations officials and experts on mission to shield them from criminal accountability and punishment for their conduct, in particular when the host State was unable to prosecute them. His delegation welcomed the introduction of procedures to train staff in the United Nations standards of conduct before their deployment on

mission. It also welcomed the provision through the United Nations of technical assistance for Member States with a view to developing law enforcement institutions and domestic criminal law.

5. His Government had introduced a number of laws at the domestic level to ensure the necessary security and judicial investigations and to prosecute persons accused of such crimes. The Sudan had acceded to many international multilateral instruments and bilateral agreements on judicial assistance.

6. There was a need for concrete procedures to bring perpetrators to justice. Not only must justice be done, it must also be seen to be done. The immunities and privileges enjoyed by international personnel must not prevent host States with jurisdiction from bringing perpetrators to justice for crimes committed on their soil. It was imperative to introduce standard procedures which waived the immunity of the perpetrators, especially when they had temporary contracts for particular programmes in the host State.

7. **Ms. Kremžar** (Slovenia) said that while United Nations officials and experts on mission had an important and indispensable role to play, they must respect international law and host countries' laws. In championing its own values and fighting for a safer and better world, the United Nations must also uphold moral principles and accountability. The Organization must therefore maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards criminal offences committed by such personnel. Her country welcomed the new approach to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on the topic (A/71/818), attaching special importance to ending impunity and to prevention through education. Slovenia had expressed its political commitment to the joint efforts of the United Nations and Member States to eliminate such practices by signing the Secretary-General's voluntary compact to that end. The United Nations must indeed comply with the standards that it imposed on others: it was to be commended for doing so, notably for the recent finalization of the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework of the United Nations Secretariat, which had assumed particular importance over the past year. As a Member State with nationals serving as experts on missions, Slovenia recognized that the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute rested with individual Member States. Nevertheless, cooperation between the United Nations and Member States was indispensable if jurisdiction was to be exercised over alleged offenders. Preventive measures were essential and it was therefore considered a priority in her country to train all personnel before their deployment to missions, to make them more aware of their obligations to comply with all relevant international and national standards.

8. **Ms. Chernysheva** (Russian Federation) said that the preventive measures developed with the participation of the General Assembly were, on the whole, adequate to address the problem of crimes committed by individuals serving with the United Nations. Any investigation of United Nations personnel should be carried out in strict compliance with the norms of international law, with the leading role in establishing jurisdiction being played by the State of nationality of the official. While due account must be taken of the special legal status of such personnel, they must not under any circumstances be exempted from accountability for crimes they committed while on mission. At the same time, they must not be punished unfairly and without due process.

9. The Secretariat must inform States in full and without delay of cases in which their nationals serving with the United Nations were suspected of crimes. Moreover, United Nations officials and experts on mission should be provided with appropriate training with a view to preventing criminal conduct.

10. **Mr. Celarie Landaverde** (El Salvador), referring to the collective and unanimous position of Member States, as expressed in General Assembly resolution 71/297, that one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse was one case too many, said that his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's determination to fully implement the zero-tolerance policy for such practices. United Nations officials and experts on mission made a significant contribution to fulfilling the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter, the very importance of which required them to comply consistently with international standards and the rule of law. It was also essential that they should preserve the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations.

11. El Salvador had signed the Secretary-General's voluntary compact to put an end to sexual abuse and exploitation which, while not being legally binding, represented a joint declaration of intent to eliminate that scourge. In cases where required standards of conduct were not met, and particularly where serious crimes were involved, it was the duty of States to ensure that they did not go unpunished and to cooperate in bringing their perpetrators to justice. Nationals of his own country participating in United Nations missions were made aware of their obligation to comply both with applicable international norms and with the laws and customs of the country of assignment. Indeed, because of the importance of

preventive measures, nationals of El Salvador were vetted before deployment by the military authorities and were given training in respect of the strict standards of conduct to be upheld. His country considered there to be a legal duty to prevent the commission of crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission and, in cases where they occurred, to investigate them and exercise jurisdiction over them.

12. **Ms. Premabhuti** (Thailand) said that criminal accountability was a requirement for advancing and sustaining the rule of law and that impunity for crimes committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission undermined the integrity, credibility and effectiveness of the entire Organization. Thailand accordingly supported the effective implementation of the zero-tolerance policy for such crimes and had put in place a solid policy and a complete internal legal framework to ensure the criminal accountability of its nationals, including those serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission. The Thai Criminal Code established jurisdiction for serious criminal offences committed by Thai nationals outside the national territory. Internationally, Thailand recognized the crucial need to cooperate closely with other countries to make up for any jurisdictional gaps in order, through mutual legal assistance and extradition, to facilitate the investigation of crimes and prosecute their perpetrators.

13. For prevention purposes, Thailand also remained convinced of the importance of predeployment training, in-session induction and strict compliance with the United Nations standards of conduct. As a troop-contributing country, Thailand appreciated the ongoing efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support in that regard. It included both men and women among its nationals serving in peacekeeping operations and called on all Member States to give women an increased role in such operations throughout the world. Her delegation commended the vast majority of United Nations officials and experts on mission for their invaluable contribution to advancing the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and stood ready, in solidarity with the international community, to uphold justice for lasting peace in the world.

14. **Mr. Kabir** (Bangladesh) said that any allegations made involving United Nations officials and experts on mission as well as members of non-United Nations forces serving in missions endorsed by the United Nations should be investigated and the outcome shared in a transparent manner. That would send a strong message against impunity, which was critical for sustaining the trust of Member States in the United Nations. In cases of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, the rights and protection of victims must have a central place. Effective complaint and redress mechanisms should be set up at the field level for alleged victims. Bangladesh therefore welcomed the appointment of the Victims' Rights Advocate and had pledged a US$100,000 contribution to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse established by the Secretary-General; other Member States were likewise urged to contribute to it. His country considered remedial action in support of victims to be a non-derogable responsibility.

15. In the event of any allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse brought against any of its nationals serving in a United Nations mission, Bangladesh ensured that appropriate disciplinary and criminal justice measures were taken in accordance with its laws, shared all related information with the United Nations Secretariat and stood ready to conduct investigations jointly with it on specific allegations. Bangladesh had signed the voluntary compact proposed by the Secretary-General to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse and remained committed to taking the necessary measures to comply with its provisions. The experience thus gained could be useful in addressing the outstanding issue of a draft convention on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission. Further efforts were also needed to implement Security Council resolution 2272 (2016), as well as comprehensive discussions within the General Assembly and the Security Council to forge ahead towards a "zero case" scenario.

16. **Mr. Mpongosha** (South Africa) said that as United Nations officials and experts on mission were almost always dealing with vulnerable and poorly protected groups, it was essential that the Organization should make every effort to ensure that they were not subject to criminal exploitation and abuse and at the same time to prevent the good work of those officials and experts from being tainted by the indiscretion and lack of discipline of a minority. In cases where they committed serious crimes, they should be held accountable. South Africa continued to support the adoption of a multilateral convention to regulate the matter and also as a means of prevention. In the meantime, his delegation reiterated its call to States to close the jurisdictional gap and to continue developing domestic legislation to allow them to establish jurisdiction over such crimes. South Africa also supported the call to States to strengthen predeployment vetting procedures and training and to

ensure the prompt reporting, investigation and punishment of offenders.

17. **Mr. Taye** (Ethiopia) said that the crimes committed by a few United Nations officials and experts on mission had a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of United Nations mandates and tarnished the commendable efforts of all the others. It was therefore of paramount importance to ensure that they never went unpunished and that their perpetrators were prosecuted. Ethiopia continued to support fully the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy towards such crimes and urged Member States to establish jurisdiction over them. Member States should also give assistance in criminal investigations and extradition proceedings. His delegation was nevertheless concerned that allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse did not always meet the minimum evidentiary standard.

18. Ethiopia, as a troop-contributing country, gave its peacekeepers the necessary predeployment training, including on sexual exploitation and abuse, and continued to address any related risk factors. In cases of alleged sexual misconduct by any of them, the necessary investigations would be carried out and appropriate measures would be taken. Ethiopian courts had jurisdiction over Ethiopian nationals who were immune from prosecution at the place of commission of a crime. Member States should continue to be informed of allegations of crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission and the General Assembly remained the appropriate form to discuss the matter with a view to arriving at a comprehensive solution.

19. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that many peacekeeping missions were marred by cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, corruption, fraud and theft by United Nations officials and experts. While remaining fully committed to contributing to such missions and recognizing the dedication of United Nations personnel in the field, Namibia supported the zero-tolerance policy towards such conduct and welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General to address the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse brought to the Organization's attention. His delegation likewise welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and hoped that it would also concern itself with other crimes.

20. Namibian officers to be deployed to United Nations missions were vetted beforehand to ensure that they had no criminal records; they included personnel with a legal background to ensure that crimes were investigated on the ground; however, cases were also reviewed in Namibia.

21. Both international law and the laws of host States must be respected, not only to prevent impunity for crimes but also to guarantee justice for victims. The special status enjoyed by United Nations officials and experts on mission should not protect them in such cases, and while Member States bore the primary responsibility for bringing them to justice when they committed crimes, the United Nations shared with Member States the responsibility to ensure that they were held accountable. His delegation encouraged Member States to cooperate with each other in criminal investigations and extradition proceedings in respect of such crimes and to take measures to close existing jurisdictional gaps on such matters.

22. **Mr. Heumann** (Israel) said that his country attached great importance to the development of appropriate legal instruments for preventing impunity and promoting accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission and had recently signed the Secretary-General's compact to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse. When such persons committed serious crimes they must be investigated and prosecuted, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, and in accordance with international human rights standards, including due process. The development of appropriate legal instruments would strengthen the public image of the United Nations, especially with respect to its relations with the host country. Failure to adjudicate serious crimes might undermine the reputation, independence and life-saving functions of the United Nations.

23. Israel looked forward to seeing how States would develop their national legislation to ensure the criminal accountability of their nationals serving on United Nations missions, and it urged States to take steps to prevent impunity. Member States' actions could be more efficient if the United Nations showed a willingness to investigate allegations against its personnel on mission and to cooperate with the authorities of both the sending and the receiving Member States. In cases where personnel were entitled to immunity from jurisdiction, United Nations authorities must work to find solutions outside of local tribunals, including settlements with the victims of the offence, especially when there had been deaths or serious injuries. Israel welcomed the General Assembly's decision in its resolution 71/134 to urge the Secretary-General to continue to take practical measures to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, and hoped that the mutual efforts would raise the awareness of States

regarding the principles of proper conduct and crime prevention by their nationals serving on such missions.

24. **Mr. Bawazir** (Indonesia) said that his country supported the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations towards crimes committed by its officials and experts on mission, especially in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. It had accordingly signed the voluntary compact proposed by the Secretary-General. As a leading troop- and police-contributing country, Indonesia was strongly committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct for its peacekeepers, who always received predeployment sensitivity training and operational guidance. Central to such training was the understanding that the laws of the host State must be respected and that nothing must be done to undermine the peacekeeping mission or the reputation of the United Nations.

25. Peacekeepers deserved the continuing gratitude of the international community, but when they committed violations the law must take its course. They must not have impunity in such cases and States must have the legal infrastructure to prosecute them. His delegation continued to hold the view that the sending State must establish jurisdiction over crimes committed by its nationals serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission and encouraged Member States to take all requisite steps to that end. Member States should also develop a robust and improved international legal cooperation regime, including arrangements for extradition and mutual legal assistance.

26. **Mr. Warraich** (Pakistan) said that, in the interests both of justice and of the integrity and credibility of the United Nations, the Organization's officials and experts on mission must be held criminally accountable. The protectors of the vulnerable could in no circumstances be allowed to become their abusers. As a major troop-contributing country, Pakistan fully subscribed to the zero-tolerance policy for crimes committed by such personnel and had been one of the first countries to sign the voluntary compact aimed at eliminating sexual exploitation and abuse. His country required its nationals serving in United Nations missions to undergo predeployment training in respect of human rights and the protection of civilians as well as in matters of financial propriety.

27. The goal of criminal accountability could be advanced through the closing of jurisdictional gaps, particularly in regard to crimes recognized by both the host State and the State of nationality. Likewise, since prosecution was critical for prevention, efforts should be made to strengthen the capacity of national institutions and criminal justice systems to hold the accused to account. Technical support from international organizations, including the United Nations, could contribute to that end.

28. **Mr. Al-Sharif** (Saudi Arabia) said that the United Nations had taken welcome steps to combat impunity and should continue to enforce a zero-tolerance policy in respect of public safety and criminal justice offences. The principle of the individual criminal responsibility of members of peacekeeping missions should be emphasized. The human rights standards applicable to peacekeeping missions needed to be overhauled, and Member States should work together to ensure that United Nations officials and experts on mission who had committed crimes were held to account. Before staff members were deployed, they should receive training regarding the criminal law of host States. It would also be worth examining the possibility of prosecuting crimes committed by United Nations officials under regional jurisdiction.

29. **Ms. Pierce** (United States of America) said that, for the sake of the Organization's credibility in carrying out its essential work around the world and the public's confidence in its ability to protect and serve, United Nations officials and experts on mission must be held accountable for crimes they committed. Following shocking allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers some years previously, the General Assembly had called for a zero-tolerance policy, and the Secretary-General had demonstrated strong leadership in that regard by prioritizing the dignity of victims and promoting transparency, accountability and prevention. Her delegation welcomed the new approach to special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse set out in the Secretary-General's report on the topic (A/71/818) and the efforts of Member States, the Security Council and the General Assembly to ensure that the issue remained a priority. It looked forward to engaging with all parts of the Organization on the implementation of reforms.

30. The Committee was concerned not only with sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeeping troops but also with other criminal activity across the United Nations. Only 2 of the 20 referrals made by the United Nations in 2017 and 2 of 27 referrals in 2016, as set out in annex I to the Secretary-General's report of 28 July 2017 (A/72/205), related to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. Accountability must be promoted for all crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including financial and other crimes, such as fraud, corruption and theft.

31. Her delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Office of Legal Affairs to implement the General Assembly's request for more follow-up with Member States that did not respond to referrals of criminal allegations. In several recent cases identified in annex I to the report, such additional efforts appeared to have made a difference, prompting States to respond. In addition, the provision, in annex II to the report, of information on notifications received from States with respect to investigations or prosecutions of crimes allegedly committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission was a positive step towards enhanced transparency.

32. The report of the Secretary-General of 29 June 2017 (A/72/121), which contained a compilation of information from across the United Nations system relating to policies and procedures regarding credible allegations that revealed that a crime might have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, painted a complex picture that even a well-trained lawyer might find challenging to decipher, let alone a person in a remote village who was trying to report and follow up on allegations of fraud or corruption. Her delegation looked forward to discussing with other delegations ways to promote enhanced clarity and coherence of those policies and procedures in order to improve efficiency and transparency and reduce redundancies, if any.

33. The United States remained open to consideration by the Committee of whether an international convention could play a useful role in closing jurisdictional gaps that might prevent Member States from holding their nationals accountable for criminal acts committed while serving as United Nations officials and experts on mission. In that regard, her delegation recognized the continued efforts of the Secretariat to compile information submitted by Member States, although more information was still needed, in particular about the domestic laws of those States that faced legal challenges to holding their nationals to account for criminal acts committed while serving with the United Nations abroad.

34. With regard to the further consideration at the seventy-third session of the report of the Group of Legal Experts on ensuring the accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission with respect to criminal acts committed in peacekeeping operations, contained in the note by the Secretary-General on the same topic (A/60/980), the Committee must have a full picture of obstacles in the domestic legal landscape so that it could give closer consideration to the possible impact and form of a potentially legally binding instrument. That would also help the Committee examine other approaches or solutions that might be more effective.

35. **Mr. Shin** Seoung Ho (Republic of Korea) said that crimes committed by persons abusing their status as United Nations officials or experts on mission could not be tolerated. Such crimes not only tarnished the reputation and credibility of the United Nations but also seriously affected the functioning of the missions in question, as they were likely to discourage the local population from cooperating with the Organization. Member States should take all appropriate measures, including establishing jurisdiction over such crimes, to ensure that perpetrators were brought to justice. Crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse were particularly deplorable in that they victimized the very people that United Nations personnel were meant to serve and protect. He reaffirmed his country's full support for the Organization's zero-tolerance policy with regard to such crimes, which, if not properly punished, would create the negative perception that United Nations officials and experts on mission operated with impunity.

36. His delegation noted with appreciation that the Office of Legal Affairs had referred 35 cases to States of nationality for investigation and possible prosecution during the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, and commended the Secretary-General for actively following up with the States concerned and improving the approach and scope of his report on criminal accountability of 28 July 2017 (A/72/205). However, it was disappointing that information on the status of investigations and prosecutorial or disciplinary action had been received from States in only about one fifth of the 124 cases referred to them. Efforts to end impunity for crimes committed by United Nations personnel could not move forward without the active commitment of Member States. States of nationality must therefore periodically inform the Secretariat of the progress and final outcome of cases within their jurisdiction. His delegation commended those States that had provided such information.

37. While the punishment of criminals was important in terms of justice and also served to a considerable degree as a prevention mechanism, it was crucial to prevent possible crimes by United Nations personnel from the very beginning. His delegation therefore welcomed the practical measures to strengthen existing predeployment training and vetting measures described in the Secretary-General's report. The Secretary-General and all Member States had a shared responsibility to prevent offences and punish the perpetrators, and the role of Member States in instilling discipline and providing training prior to deployment

was particularly important. As a troop-contributing country, the Republic of Korea provided a two-month intensive training course for those who were about to be deployed. The most able soldiers were recruited through a rigorous selection process and given instruction in professional ethics. Such predeployment training had undoubtedly contributed to the fact that no crimes of a serious nature had been committed by nationals of his country during their service as United Nations personnel.

38. **Mr. Itegboje** (Nigeria) said that his country condemned acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, which caused incalculable harm to the image of the United Nations, and was strongly committed to holding accountable personnel, including its own nationals, who perpetrated such acts. Nigeria was proud that its President belonged to the recently established circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations, many of whose members represented troop- and police-contributing countries, and pledged to continue cooperating with the Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Nigeria had provided the Office with copies of the laws and manuals used in the administration of justice in the Nigerian Armed Forces. It also collected DNA samples and used them to determine culpability for sexual exploitation and abuse in cases involving paternity claims.

39. Nigeria was making efforts to raise awareness among its own troops serving in missions abroad of the potential impact of any untoward acts, the medical risks of irresponsible behaviour, and the Organization's policy of zero tolerance for such acts. In that connection, three Nigerian teams had been cleared to visit the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in 2017 and had been successful in raising awareness among Nigerian peacekeepers of the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse and related issues. His Government was also working to establish mobile courts that would be mandated to act promptly on cases of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by personnel on mission.

40. It was necessary to establish a working environment that was conducive to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by changing the organizational culture of missions, increasing the participation of women, improving the welfare of personnel, investigating and prosecuting suspects in a timely manner, providing training programmes on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse, and excludi personnel who had committed offences of sexu exploitation and abuse while serving on any Unit Nations mission. His Government was providi recreational facilities for Nigerian peacekeepe serving on missions abroad and had approved proposal to grant them regular leave to visit th families and loved ones. It had also made arrangemen to increase the number of welfare flights to and fro mission areas.

41. Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse shou not be stigmatized but rather rehabilitated. To that en his Government had donated $100,000 to the Unit Nations Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexu Exploitation and Abuse and urged others to ma contributions to the Fund. It had also launch programmes of lectures and predeployment training f peacekeeping officers at the Nigerian Arm Peacekeeping Centre and invited contingents fro other countries to participate.

42. Exemplary behaviour should be rewarded order to encourage others, while bad behaviour shou be punished without hesitation. The amount of goo work done through the United Nations far exceeded th number of misdeeds committed by a few. However one case of sexual exploitation and abuse or oth criminal behaviour was one too many and was enoug to tarnish the Organization's name. Nigeria continu to call on all Member States to cooperate with th Organization in the exchange of information an timely facilitation of investigations and prosecution where investigations showed that sexual exploitation abuse might have been committed.

43. **Mr. Bentaja** (Morocco) said that any offence any kind committed by a United Nations official expert on mission must be prosecuted in a court of th State of which the accused person was a national. I order to maintain the credibility of the Organizatio immunity should never be invoked as a ploy or in manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Unite Nations. Section 20 of the Convention on th Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations state that privileges and immunities were granted to officia in the interests of the United Nations and not for th personal benefit of the individuals themselves, and th the Secretary-General had the right and the duty t waive the immunity of any official in any case where in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and could be waived without prejudice to th interests of the United Nations. Before the deployment, civilian and military personnel shoul receive legal training on their criminal accountabilit

under their domestic law and international law when offences were committed.

44. His delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to establish a strategy to eliminate all forms of reprehensible conduct through preventive measures, strengthen compliance with the United Nations rules of conduct and the relevant Secretary-General's bulletins and administrative instructions, and to impose corrective measures where necessary. Actions should also be taken to protect the victims and provide them with compensation and medical assistance. Lastly, if the allegations against an official or expert proved to be unfounded, the United Nations should take steps to restore that person's reputation, in conformity with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 68/105.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.